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DETAILED ACTION
EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Wayne E. Keown on 27 January 2010.

The claims are amended as follows:

1.-25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously presented) A method for generating an immune response in a patient, such method comprising administering to the patient an immunostimulatory oligonucleotide compound, comprising an immunostimulatory dinucleotide of formula C*pG, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide compound is at least 6 nucleotides in length, wherein C* is a non-natural pyrimidine nucleoside selected from the group consisting of 5-hydroxycytosine, 5-hydroxymethylcytosine, N4-alkylcytosine and 4-thiouracil, and G is guanosine and p is an internucleotide linkage selected from the group consisting of phosphorothiate and phosphorodithioate.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 26, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide compound is conjugated to an antigen ~~or vaccine~~.

29. (Original) The method according to claim 28, wherein such conjugation is to the 3'-end of the oligonucleotide compound.

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30-33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously presented) A method for treating a cancer patient, such method comprising administering to the patient an immunostimulatory oligonucleotide compound, comprising an immunostimulatory dinucleotide of formula C*pG, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide compound is at least 6 nucleotides in length, wherein C* is a non-natural pyrimidine nucleoside selected from the group consisting of 5-hydroxycytosine, 5-hydroxymethylcytosine, N4-alkylcytosine and 4-thiouracil, and G is guanosine and p is an internucleotide linkage selected from the group consisting of phosphorothiate and phosphorodithioate.

35. (Original) The method according to claim 34, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide compound is administered in combination with a chemotherapeutic compound.

36-70. (Canceled)

71. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 26, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide compound is administered in combination with an antibiotic, antigen, allergen, ~~vaccine~~, antibody, cytotoxic agent, antisense oligonucleotide, ~~gene therapy vector~~, ~~DNA vaccine~~, adjuvant, or combination thereof.

72. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 34, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide compound is administered in combination with an antibiotic, antigen, allergen, ~~vaccine~~, antibody, cytotoxic agent, antisense oligonucleotide, ~~gene therapy vector~~, ~~DNA vaccine~~, adjuvant, or combination thereof.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David J. Blanchard whose telephone number is (571) 272-0827. The examiner can normally be reached at Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM, with alternate Fridays off. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Larry Helms, can be reached at (571) 272-0832.

The official fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/David J. Blanchard/
Primary Examiner, A.U. 1643